

Chamber Honors Simmons With "Spirit of Enterprise" Award

WASHINGTON, D.C.-The United States Chamber of Commerce last week awarded Rep. Rob Simmons (R- 2nd District) with its 2004 "Spirit of Enterprise" award for his pro-business votes in the first session of the 108th Congress. Simmons earned an 80 percent vote rating with the U.S. Chamber- the highest score in the congressional delegation.

"This award is a great honor," Simmons said. "I am committed to giving Connecticut businesses the tools they need to compete locally and nationally and to help our economy get back on its feet. We must keep the jobs in our district, and this means helping create a strong and worker-friendly business environment."

The Chamber awards the "Spirit of Enterprise" based on rankings it gives members of Congress for key business votes set out in its annual publication, How They Voted. Among the key votes counted by the Chamber in 2003 were votes approving the \$350 billion Jobs and Growth Tax Relief package, bankruptcy and medical liability reform, workforce reinvestment, pension security, and the most sweeping overhaul of Medicare since the program's creation in 1965.

"As America's economy continues to expand, the importance of supporting pro-growth policies in Congress becomes increasingly clear," said Thomas J. Donohue, U.S. Chamber President and CEO. "Rob Simmons is a leader who time and again has supported legislation to create jobs, increase productivity, and strengthen our nation's recovering economy."